MCC NEWS

VOLUME 111
NUMBER 42
AUGUST 1, 1971
DONATION 25¢

WISDOM:

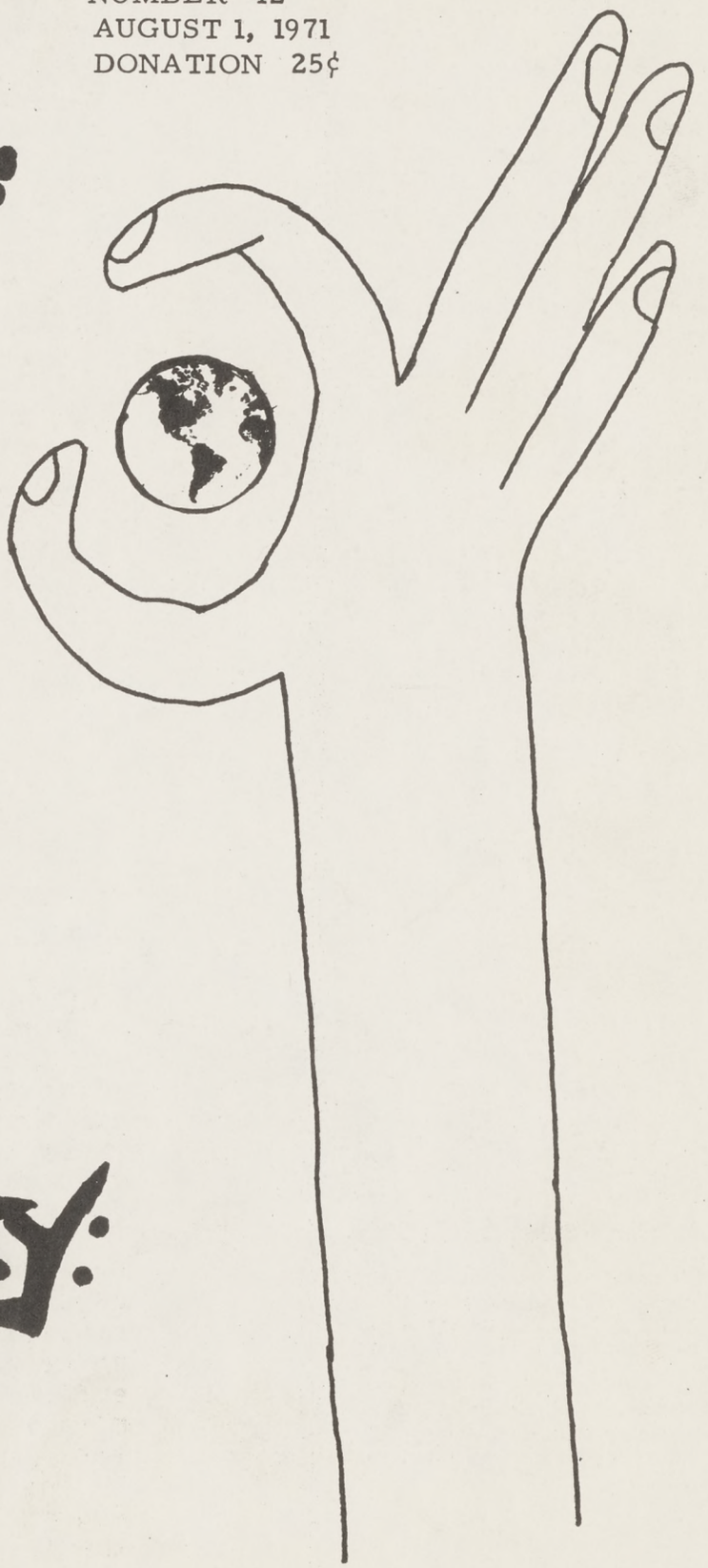
IS To Know
Myself

COURAGE:

To Change
Myself

and **SERENITY:**

To Accept
Myself



M.C.C. NEWS

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A NEW ROAD BECKONS

Sometimes a new road beckons and we go
To add new knowledge, seek another way
To serve mankind. All willingly we turn
To meet the challenge facing us one day;

Not that the old way's lesser or the new
A greater work, but only that our lives
And talents serve, to full capacity,
The goals toward which all mankind ever strives.

– E.Y.B.

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

Our Birthright

READ EPHESIANS 3:21

Bible Thought: *"He who has faith in me will do what I am doing; and he will do greater things still because I am going to the Father"* (John 14:12-14).

GOD does not want us merely to hold up Christ's life before us as an example. He wants us to live victorious lives just like Jesus.

Jesus knew that he was the Son of God; we also know that we are fully adopted sons through spiritual birth. God's Spirit lived within Jesus; the Holy Spirit lives within us. We ourselves are dead. Jesus lives his life within us. When God looks at us he sees Jesus' righteousness, not our own. Jesus had the ability to use divine power in his life through prayer. Jesus knew that his Spirit was only temporarily housed in this body and would soon be in the presence of God himself; we also know this.

So, stand up as a Son of God and claim your spiritual birthright. You have an inheritance with Christ. In God's presence, you appear in Jesus' righteousness.

We are all very conscious of our limitations but we also need to be conscious of our spiritual resources as Christ abides in us, giving us power to live the Christ-like life.

Hymn: "Open My Eyes, That I May See."

Father, open my eyes so that I can utilize the power available for my life in Christ. In his name. Amen.

—EDWARD L. PARRISH

RUMMAGE SALE

This week is the last chance you will have to clean out those closets and garages. This is the last chance you have to get rid of that awful ash tray or that nick nack that Aunt Bessy sent last Christmas or that birthday sweater that she knitted for you.

All kidding aside, many of you have things that I am sure that you will never use. So please help your publications department make the money we need for the additional equipment to make the department run more efficient and do a better job for you and M.C.C.

The rummage sale is next Saturday August 7th starting about 1:00 PM in the Church parking lot.

HELLO ARTISTS!!

How about all you fine artists, drawers, creators, designers, etc., getting together and setting up a Sign Poster Department, an Art Department, or an Advertising Department for M.C.C.'s many functions? Instead of one or two sign makers in each and every Parish, Committee, Club or function of the Church, why not a combined effort? Each group could appoint their artist. That's eight of them right there just from the Parishes. You would save on materials, space, costs and more important, it would get those necessary signs, posters and advertisements made, distributed and with a M.C.C. style, co-ordination and flavor. PLUS it would be a vital outlet for all you creative artistic people.

We here in publications do the printing and some art work, but the need is big enough for a whole art crew and a responsible Art Director.

Any volunteers? What say You?

Your Asst. Editor
Marty Seneca

THE ACADEMY

The Academy starts new classes on August 8, with the registration desk open at 9:00 AM on Sunday August 1st and 8th.

There are two study courses open to anyone interested. One course is Psychology I with Jim Hobby instructing and the other is I Corinthians with Rev. Ron Hayes instructing.

Don't miss these important lessons! They both sound extremely interesting with very capable instructors at the head of the classes.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Well the youth group is still in the groove of things. We're planning a fund raising activity, to help obtain the highly needed air-conditioning system here at M.C.C. I won't go into too much detail right now. But! Keep your eyes and ears open for more information in the very near future. We want the participation of every M.C.C. member.

It's my pleasure to report that the youth group had a bang up beach party last Saturday at the famous Playa Del Rey beach. There were some marshmallows, weiners and some other goodies on hand to roast. Does that sound like fun to you? Want to get involved? Our only requirements are that you be from ages 13 - 20 and that you want to have fun. Of course, along with any type of good clean fun there has to be some work. We meet here at the church every 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. These are the business meetings and we make plans for our activities. We also meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. At this time we just get together to rap about just anything that's on anyones mind. Both meetings are at 7:30PM here at the church. Come out, come out, where ever you are. Join us in fellowship with one another and the Lord.

Oh yes, a certain part of my last article might have misled some of you nice people out there. Tina is not Liz' lover. One more thing, don't forget food for the deacon's closet (especially canned meats). Until next week, keep the faith babe.

Ray Hicks Secretary
M.C.C. L.A. Youth Group

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

A Good Name Nowadays is Hard to Find

Sunday July 25th

by Al Correa

Perhaps you heard I was relaxing at the beach or sleeping late when my column was vacant last week but there isn't a word of truth in it. After three solid days of Spiritual Renewal I flunked out, missing not only Rev. Howard Wells' Saturday Service (which I really wanted to hear), but Sunday Services as well. Out-of-town guests from Providence (Rhode Island, that is), domestic responsibilities and a glut of ministerial advice finally caught up with me. Thank you, T-Beau, for filling in for me last Sunday.

Deacon John Logan opened services today with a reading from the Scriptures; I copied down the string of numbers Deacon John recited so I could reread that section at home in my own bible, but that puzzling code meant to precisely pinpoint the exact section and chapter in the Bible will ever be a mystery to me. I couldn't find it and all I recall is the ending which said: "If a man says 'I love God, but not my brother' he is a liar. For how can you not love your brother whom you can see, yet love God whom you can not see?"

Terry and Rusty Carlson lit the Altar candles, after which the procession of Deacons, Ministers and guests filed in as we sang "Oh Worship the King". Rev. Ken Jones welcomed us, happily announcing that last week Metropolitan Community Church of Phoenix celebrated their first anniversary which was further commemorated with news of another major step forward: Phoenix has become the second church within the Metropolitan Denomination to purchase property! More details about this exciting development will appear in IN UNITY later.

Our special guest this morning was Rev. Rodger Harrison, Pastor of Christ Chapel Metropolitan Community Church of Orange County. Rev. Harrison and his companion Hakan are dear friends whose hospitality we've enjoyed; after services Rev.Harrison was leaving for Europe to meet Hakan who is currently completing school abroad. Rev. Harrison led us in the Responsive Reading, after which Rev. Ploen led us in the Silent & Pastoral Prayer. Choirmembers Ron and Walter Craig softly sang a quiet duet during Silent Prayer. Rev.Ploens prayer today encouraged us to think of friends sick in body and mind. I particularly liked this part of his prayer: "May no jealousy, malice, or evil thoughts guide us... May our professed faith strengthen us through good works. Give us the victory of Faith."

Our Pastor then greeted us, saying it was good to be back from New York. He preached last week as the guest of Father Robert Clement, Pastor of The Church of the Beloved Disciple—650 persons attended, which pleased Father Clement, as it exceeded his usual attendance. Some visitors from Dallas were then introduced; from San Francisco came the Editor of VECTOR (SIR's monthly publication); and friends of Rev. Harrison. Rev. Perry announced that Rev. Jon Bullock will be preaching at Early Morning Services next Sunday.

This Mornings Sermon was begun with the quote "A good name is more to be valued than silver or gold." Commenting on names, titles and even trademarks Rev. Perry dwelt on their ability to instill us with a sense of self-worth, or lack of it. Choosing anecdotes from his personal

experiences he developed his theme, concluding his sermon with the questions: "What sort of a name does our community have? What's your name like today? Is it a good name...?"

A meeting of the Womens Action Committee was announced. Rev.Evelyn Kinser and Selma Kannel have been active in founding this new action committee for women who wish to actively enter into existing departments of the church and to be instrumental in the development of new departments. For example, Judy Heckman (whose spouse, Jay,is in Crisis Intervention) is beginning a Pre-School Sunday class to be conducted during Worship Service. The committe hopes to function as a clearing house to channel the energies of the women of MCC who wish to function as active and constructive members. Their objectives are possibly best expressed in their motto, which is as follows:

Women active in every department!
Opportunities for new activities!
Many more women in MCC!
Every woman active!
No more Tokenism!

Our prayers and best wishes go out to our sisters that this new endeavor will be blessed with success.

Almost forgot some more news. Our Pastor mentioned that with the help of a professional writer he has written a book! Besides being of particular interest to MCC Members, this work should be a valuable reference work for future writers wishing to trace the evolution of Gay history in general and Metropolitan Community Church in particular.

See you next Sunday!

* * *

Have YOU written YOUR assemblyman?

COOPERATION ?

DISSENTERS, CRITICS, FAULTFINDERS...

If you have a gripe, we don't need to hear afterwards what you didn't like or what went wrong. Like we always say in publications: Don't show us our typos, errors, etc., COME IN and help us avoid them!

Those of you who didn't like certain things in the parade, probably never went to any of the several meetings weeks before the event. The parade theme was "Unity In Diversity". This indicates a parade solid, together, but in all the many flavors of gay life. If we excluded one type or idea, then they would have the right to exclude maybe your favorite group.

For Your Information: (Especially for those objectors to the Caterpillar joke) the American Legion, the Mummers Parade, and the Shriners, have all had some sort of "obscenity" (?) or at least questionable float, group or sign in their parades.

We have to ALL get together in order to prove to the straights that we ARE responsible people and NOT the bitchy, stab-in-the-back type hypocrites like the straight-world is so full of.

Our General Meeting of MCC-LA is being held today to elect delegates to the MCC General Conference in September. You who are interested enough to be here, be at our functions, be apart of us, are pulling FOR our success. Those absentees, just by not being here are in a sense pulling AGAINST us. Togetherness is God's message. Let's really love your brothers and sisters!

I'll bet if you look at your gripes real deep, it would not be their fault or shortcomings, but your own. You've got to GIVE before you can RECIEVE anything good.

Bless You All,
Marty Seneca

Alcoholics Together

The opening lines of Francis Thompson's, The Hound of Heaven, describe best for me, a practicing alcoholic's futile attempt to pursue happiness by drinking:

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;
I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways of my own mind; and in the midst of tears
I hid from Him, and under running laughter.
Up vistaed hopes I sped; and shot precipitated,
A down Titanic glooms of chasmed fears,
From those strong Feet that followed after.
But with unhurrying chase, and unperturbed pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
They beat--and a Voice beat
More instant than the Feet--
"All things betray thee, who betrayest me."

I am a recovering alcoholic. My purpose in writing this article is to let any reader know that there is a way out for the alcoholic homosexual. Really there are several alternative solutions to an alcoholic problem. One is to stop on one's own accord. Another is to continue to drink into insanity or death. Another is to become associated with a fellowship whose primary purpose is for its members to stay sober and to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. Alcoholics Together is a fellowship of alcoholic homosexual men and women who stay sober by adhering, to the best of their ability, to the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This is no queen regretful about having missed a few groovy tricks because of inordinate drinking. This is someone who, by the Grace of God and the help of Alcoholics Together did an about face one day and began the journey back to sanity and sobriety with one halting, pathetic baby step.

Being a maladjusted homosexual, I believe I was predisposed to alcoholism. Alcohol was a haven from reality for me. The trouble was the haven sank.

Nearly a dozen years of drinking brought me to the point of helplessness. Employment opportunities which will probably never present themselves again, a ten thousand dollar inheritance and the broken hearts of loved ones lie squandered in the wake of self will run riot.

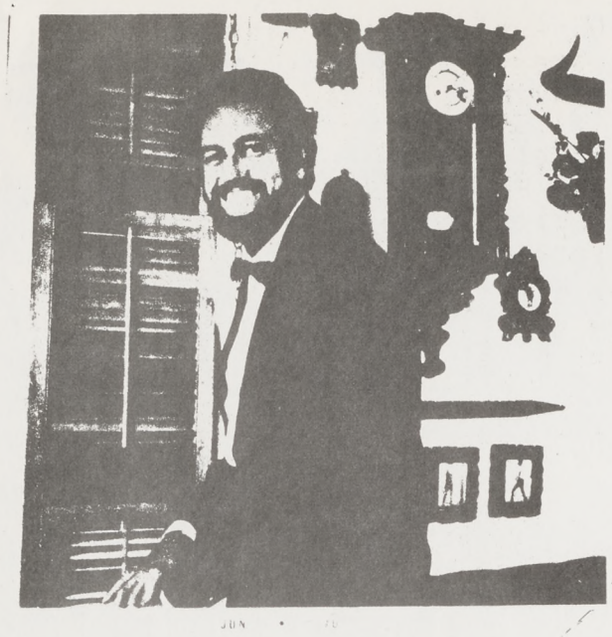
I have tried to avoid the sob sister and Carrie Nation impression on the reader. I do not begrudge anyone a drink. I almost wish Henry was here to advise me about writing this. Henry was my constant companion after nearly everyone else stopped talking to me. But one day in Brownie's Annex in Long Beach, the bartender told me to get the hell out and take my friend with me because we were beginning to drive people away. I conjured up Henry in an alcoholic haze. He was visible and audible only to me. We left only to walk into the arms of the law at the door. The judge, I think, charged Henry with vagracy and having no visible means of support but released him on his own recognizance; he gave me thirty days for being drunk in public view.

We laugh a lot in Alcoholics Together. If we didn't laugh we would cry.

The Thursday Night meeting of Alcoholics Together invites anyone to attend who would like to know more about the disease of alcoholism.

These past nine years have been the best of my life. They have given me hope that when it is all over I may say as Paul said, " I have finished my course. I have fought the good fight. I have kept the faith".

Joe B.
Alcoholics Together



A MOTHERS FLOAT?
IN A HOMOSEXUAL PARADE!?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
.....WELL,.....WHY NOT!.....

Sure, it was a novel idea and one which many thought would not be very successful.

I felt, however, that maybe this was the way I could do something for the Christopher Street West Parade.I would drive the"MOTHERS FLOAT".I had many misgivings, but after I had committed myself, it was go-go-go.

First off, what should it be? Just a plain convertible or perhaps a trailer. I turned to God and lo. the answer....use my El Camino; fit it up and have the Mothers ride in the back.

Now the problems...what would they sit on....(idea)...the wooden chairs up in the balcony arranged on top of a rug that Spider had donated to prevent the chairs from sliding.

Then I thought of "God Bless Our Mothers" as a theme, but God, working through Liz Greco, had a better idea; "GOD BLESS ALL MOTHERS". And so it was, God Bless All Mothers spelled out in Gold across the top of the float, with LOVE spaced out across the hood and M.C.C. MOMS on either side of the float.

Hi Ho Hi Ho, it's off to work we go....get foil in colors that would be appropriate, which was done with Spiders help, cut letters to be covered with gold foil...cut a heart out of styrofoam so that red velvet colored roses could be formed around it, then placed on the hood of the float.

With roses, foil, rug, chairs, wire, tape, glue, and a lump in my throat I headed out to the formation area. How wonderful it was to see all those beautiful people helping to put the finishing touches on the float.

Finally, all was done, the Mothers aboard, the float in gear and we were OFF!!!

As I rounded the corner onto Hollywood Blvd., I think that my heart must have skipped a beat when I saw the tremendous crowd that was there to greet us, or boo us. What would their reaction be! Then came that beautiful sound....APPLAUSE.... The crowd was with us!!! What a tremendous feeling to know that what you had worked on was being accepted and applauded by the "Straight Society". The float's success meant another first for M.C.C.

Did the Mothers appreciate it? You bet they did...JUST ASK THEM! And I'd like to thank each of them now for just being there, giving so much and asking so little.

Would I do it again next year? YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT!!!! I'm only sorry that I can't show you a picture of it but as of this moment, I haven't seen any around. Maybe next year the MOTHERS FLOAT won't be forgotten.

With Love To All
Dick Durant

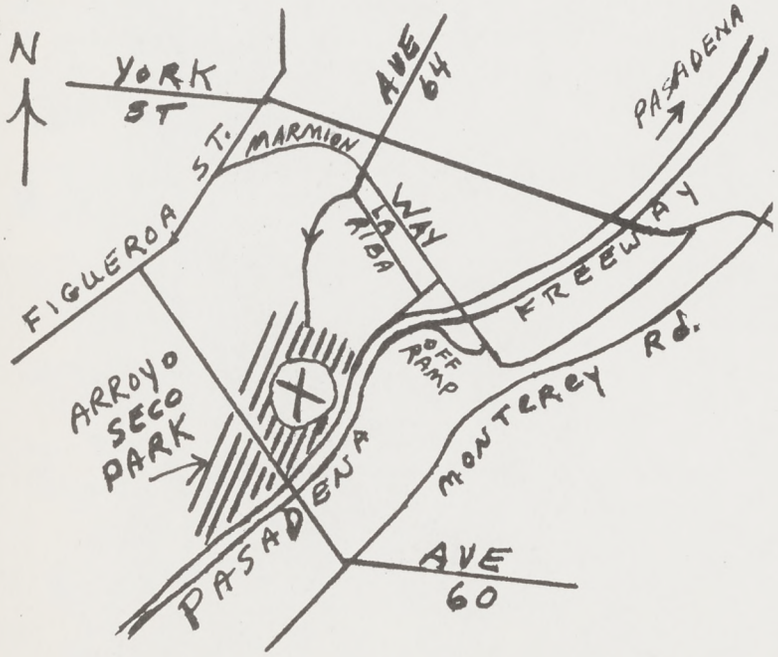
YOUR SOCIAL DIRECTOR

This Sunday, August 1st, right after Church services, we are having our 2nd picnic in Arroyo Seco Park in the Highland Park District of Los Angeles. We hope you bought your tickets in advance.

Directions to Picnic:

Take the Pasadena Freeway to Ave. 64 exit. At first stop sign turn left, then after you cross over bridge, turn left at first intersection, then (one short block) turn right at La Riba Way. DO NOT go back on Freeway.

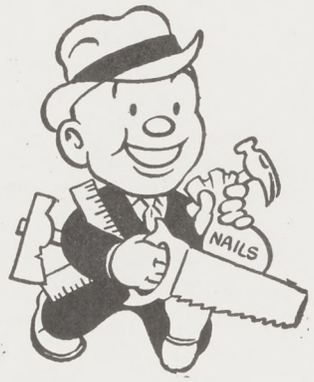
Turn left on South Ave. 64, and go straight on into the park. We will be in the middle of the park on the north side of the Freeway.



On August 21st, Saturday at 8:00 PM we are going to have our Ice Cream Social and Dance. The donation will be $1.50, and you can buy tickets ahead of time.

Jay Heckman; who is in charge of our kitchen is forming a Food and Beverage Purchasing Committee. If you have experience in food purchasing , and want to help M.C.C., contact me or Jay Heckman through the Church Office.

Bill Bennett
Social Director



MORE JOBS AVAILABLE

If you need a job, please call the Job Counseling Services. We now have more jobs than ever. If you have some college or special training your chances of getting a good job are even better. We can't guarantee everyone a job right away,BUT some how those who seem to keep in contact with us seem to get a job a lot faster than those who don't.

The Lord is really blessing us everyday but don't forget that the Lord really gets behind with a big boost those that try to help themselves. Be persistant and let us help you help yourself. We have many jobs going begging for qualified applicants, especially for girls. Send your friends. We have lots of jobs waiting.

Deacon Bill Thorne

BEACH PARISH

On July 22, the Beach Parish held it meeting at the home of newly appointed Deputy Deacon: Fred H. Sferrazzo and other half of Manhattan Beach. We had a good turnout. Talk of the evening was of many subjects. We talked about forming a camping trip, a boat trip to Catalina, an evening at Disneyland and bike riding. (With a thought of inviting other Parish members). Subject was brought up about the Deacon's Closet (we need food), to form one or two Sundays a month a Parish Deacon Brunch and the money collected would go toward buying food for the closet. Those who wish to bring food on Sunday or any day of the week,please feel free to do so. The more food there is, the easier it makes the Church to feed the needy.

Also, a Volley Ball team was suggested with other members of the Parish. We could get a team started and have a game one day a month and charge admission to see the game to help raise money for the Deacons Closet. We must do something to help the needy. We may have a day where we will be calling ourselves.

Another subject was brought up that we should advertise in the Advocate that MCC is here to help the needy. It was mentioned that the Free Press has had it advertised in their newspaper. All in all we had a wonderful meeting and do hope to see many more at the next meeting. Those of you who do live in the Beach area, please feel free to call: 379-2216, and get on the mailing list. Thank you.

The Beach Parish will be holding its next meeting on Tuesday, August 10th, at the home of:

Deputy Deacon Fred H. Sferrazzo
425 Fourth Place
Manhattan Beach

Phone: 213 379 - 2216

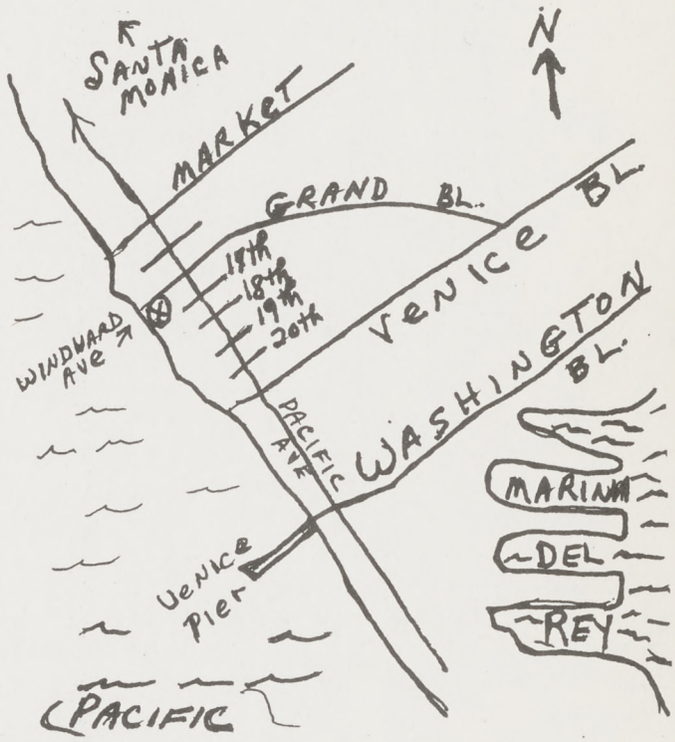
Notices are being sent out, but if you haven't attended one of our meetings yet, come visit with us! Some slides will be shown by our Guest Speaker, Rev. Richard A. Ploen.

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship -- Bring a friend!!

HOLLYWOOD PARISH BEACH PARTY

This coming Saturday, August 7th, from 12 noon til ??, there will be a picnic Beach Party at the Venice Beach in front of the Westwinds and Match Box bars near Windward Ave. in Venice. Bring your bathing suits, blankets, and picnic lunch. Be ready for a BIG day of fun with the Tinsil Town Parish. Bring all you friends and lots of sun tan oil, if you have to use it, and do your thing with the friendly natives of the Bohemia of Venice.

See you there. If you need more information, call Deputy Deacon Ralph Parham at 660-2042. Until then, Ta Ta from the place where Stars are Made, Tinsil Town.



? ?

Do you know the Metropolitan Community Church Crisis number? It is manned 24 hours a day. In case of need, the Crisis Committee is there to help you. Do you know the number?

FROM TAHITI TO MCC - LOS ANGELES:

I will say writing about Tahiti is rather difficult. I've thought of many ways to start this letter but I guess the beginning is the only place.

I'm sure many of you have heard of Nichiren Shoshu of America (Nam myoho rege Kyo) "The law of life." I must say I had never heard of it until the night I left L.A. and there were hundreds swarming all over the airport wearing shirts,sweats t-shirts, etc. with Seattle Convention 1971. Seems it takes place in Seattle this coming weekend. They were at the airport to meet the V.P. of the organization.My curiosity got the best of me, so I started asking questions. WOW! I've never seen so many Gay Ones gathered together outside of MCC. It seems the whole thing is some type of a religion. When he arrived (V.P.) he caused more commotion than our own Troy Perry.

When they cleared out we boarded our plane for Tahiti on a 8 1/2 hours flight. The seat I had was next to a real doll and the purser asked if I would like to move-nearly killed me. It was a fun trip down though.

We arrived at Papeete very early in the AM. A drive through town at 5 AM showed the place was very active and surprisingly clean. People were everywhere and they had been up all night. July 14th is Bastille Day (the French Revolution Day) the French celebrate it one day and in Tahiti 2 weeks. Shows you the kind of people they are. They say give a Tahitian a guitar and a beer and he's happy.

Checking in the hotel was my friend and his wife. We smiled and let it go at that. The next day I spent in the sun and around the Hotel. I've never seen so many closet cases in my life. This is a good place for Rev. Troy Perry. And of course they come from everywhere. So far I've met people from Ohio, N. Jersey, Australia, many Californians and the list goes on. There is a beauty who cleans the pool, needless to say, I stay in the sun every morning till its cleaned. I later went to town and really, it blew my mind! Pulling into the Harbor was the French Navy. All standing in shorts, all in white and side by side. I didn't stay around till they embarked, my heart couldn't have taken it. OH!

A bit about this Paradise and I'll think you'll agree, if you haven't already. It is Paradise! The day started with a circle Island Drive around the Island in a car. Four of us got a taxi and started out. We had a very good guide. There are many churches here, and its predominately protestant. Our first big stop outside of taking pictures was Venus Point discovered in 1769,and a light house (it works)built in 1867, also a monument to Captain Cook. He really got around in the So. Pacific. The bay surrounding all this, is the famous bay where "Mutiny on the Bounty" was filmed - both versions. Really beautiful!

There is no class system in Tahiti. The land belongs to the natives. The ones who live in the country, work their land and it feeds them. To name a few trees - breadfruit, grapefruit, sugar cane, papaya, mangoes, cashews, cocoanuts, bananas, the list is huge. There is no welfare in Tahiti; they are all fairly poor. Certainly not rich. The biggest and newest thing the Island are the Hotels - very expensive, and eating here is really a big item.

The children are required to attend school till they are 14. There are no posted speed laws. They have some but if you see a cop you just slow down. More then likely you won't see one. There is no advertising on the roads. Very little electric outside the hotels and pigs run in the street with the children. They do have large families. One cannot stay in Tahiti unless approved by the govt. and that you prove you can support yourself. Tahitians are very proud, poor, but clean and they always have beautiful gardens. They don't have mail boxes (no mail) but they do have bread boxes (French). The baker goes around putting people's orders in their mail boxes??? It does look weird seeing all this bread sticking out of these boxes. They have lovely beaches here and most of them are black sand beaches. A few spots of white sand. It has a small leper colony; and a large new hospital in Papeete. The flowers, tame and wild, are really beautiful. I saw huge bun-

ches of bamboo growing. One species of the orchid is the flower which produces the vanilla bean.

I asked one question. I wished I hadn't of asked. I asked, "Why do all the coconut trees have tin cans on them? It seems Tahitians had such a problem with rats climbing the trees and eating coconuts, that they tried poisoning them. They even offered money for their tails, so finally they brought in the mongoose from Hawaii to kill the rats. It seems the mongoose came out in the day and rats at night. Anyway they never got together and now they are over run by mongoose. So to keep the rats from climbing the trees, they put this 6" X 8" of tin half way up the tree and the rat can't go over it. Now everytime I walk under a coconut tree I just know a rat is going to drop on me. There are no poisonous animals, snakes, etc on this island. But those rats! I keep thinking of "Willard" the new movie playing in L.A. which devours humans.

Like I said before I left, "gay life" in Tahiti doesn't exist but so far, it hasn't been a problem picking up someone. Having a room to yourself helps. It's quite dark now. Time to go eat and go sightseeing. More later.

Love to all at MCC
Dale Holland

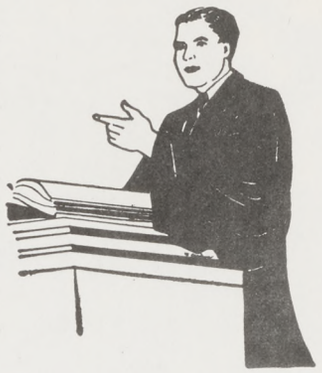
COMPANIONSHIP

Nothing life may withhold we will miss as much
As the companionship of one to share
The little joys and fears of every day,
Our hard-won triumphs and our trivial care;
Someone who knows our hidden hopes and dreams,
Who loves the common things our hearts hold dear,
Someone who makes us feel our joy is theirs,
Whom we make happier by just being near.

We may know friendship's charm and love's deep joy
And yet not know companionship's glad ways,
That blithe camraderie that is to life
As golden sun-warmth is to wintry days.
Blest beyond mortals are the very few
Who find this gift and love, linked hand in hand,
For there is naught this twain cannot forgive,
No sin or fault they cannot understand.

Love and companionship – when we have found
These two, we know the best that life can give.
Age holds no terror, for the bonds between
Grow deeper, stronger with the years we live.

– Author unknown



FROM THE PASTORS OFFICE

by Kevin McCain

It's been a busy busy week at the MCC office - preparing for the Congregational Meeting held this morning. Thanks to Kathy Laine and Larry Wrona who were a big help.

Rev. Perry left Thursday for Denver to speak at our Mission there. He was there through yesterday and was greeted with the same love and enthusiasm as is present here in L.A. Our mission is going great guns there under the leadership of Rev. Ron Carnes, who many of you may remember from his days here in L.A.

This coming week more concentrated work will be underway to prepare for our 2nd Annual General Conference. We still need housing to accommodate one or more persons please contact me at Church on Sundays or call me in the Church Office during the week. It is necessary to know what your sleeping arrangements are and whether or not you'll be attending the conference yourself.

It promises to be a fantastic Conference and a fun-filled weekend. Rev. Perry will be in town the remainder of August and will not be accepting outside speaking engagements until after the Conference. In addition Rev. Hose and Rev. Jones are taking more counselling appointments - to help balance the workload in order to devote more time and energies toward the conference.

Kevin McCain.

MCC DENVER

Editor's Note: To dispel the rumors that have come out of our "over-active-rumor-mill" about our Denver Mission, I wish to announce: I have received a very nice letter from Rev. Ron Carnes, Pastor of our Denver Mission and he tells me last week they had over 50 in attendance at their worship service and they are already looking for larger quarters. Their collection averaged over $3.00 per person. The following is an article out of their newsletter, THE CATALYST.

THE JOURNEY BACK TO GOD

I went to the church the other night and wondered where all the women were. Here we have a real church for our people and not more than 6 women out of the total congregation were in a church where they could worship without the standard hangups.

I recall being told that unless I radically changed my dress, my behavior, and my preferences, God would not help me. Lucky thing God isn't like that! People are, but God is NOT.

How many years I suffered the torture of thinking, "I want to serve God", but in the face of the rules, my desire floundered. They took away the spontaneous joy of turning to Jesus, of just loving Him. Accordingly, in order to serve God I had to deny what I basically am, play a role among so many other roles, knowing all the while with great certainty I could not fool God at all... nor myself.

I found out through hard experience and study that Jesus Christ loves me -- as I am. As I am and as you are -- He loves you.

Jesus said to come, trust, believe and love one another. Is it not in God's hands what he does with and in us once we have done these things? He never said to put on your best dress and come to me. The Bible says God looks upon the heart and people look upon outward appearances.

How thankful to discover God is not going to slap my ears down because I do not conform to what people suppose is righteousness and holiness. No one has the right to say that I am less of a human being because I am not straight, nor the perfection to say I am not able to serve God with my Heart because I don't look like the average Hattie Plant.

I love Jesus Christ and he is my friend. Why? Because I came to him as I was and forgot about the rules. I had the dumb-cluckery to actually believe God was bigger than man, more sensible, more kind, more full of love than people -- able to see my innermost being as it was and not turn away. I believed that God was real.

How about that! He didn't turn away. He does love me and I belong to him. Why? Because I trust Him. What's to stop any woman who wants to worship together with people of her own group and praise God?

Thank God for Pastor Carnes who has the courage to help us who have been so long left out of everything. Let's not let God down. He sent Pastor Carnes to give us, the outcasts, the Gospel, a place to gather and exchange views and ideas and to build a solid unity of fellowship as we are.

Now we will be able to grow into more than a hidden scattering of hopelessness concerning God and ourselves as human beings and become a community of productive and meaningful members of society. Think about it. We have a chance to make something really worthwile at last.

JANE

VALLEY VIEW

The evening was typical of Southern California in late July. The patio lights reflected off the pool like tiny jewels on a carpet.Sounds of laughter and comradeliness filled the air.

Tables in the screened lanai held a feast fit for royalty. Superb salads,steaming chili, casseroles prepared with loving hands, a menu to delight the eye and tickle the palate. Frosty urns of iced tea were a welcome refreshment with the evening heat.

A glass-topped table held the crowning glory of the evening feast. A 3-foot tiered pedestal cake(vanilla, chocolate, and banana-spice) decorated with tiny lions and topped with a large lion wishing special birthday greetings to all who were born under the sign of LEO.

Then amidst the fanfare of the band, Miss Talullah Bankhead stepped before the microphone to start the evening entertainment. As always, she delighted the audience.Liberace also joined us for a few moments, and then relinquished the spotlight to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt who paid tribute to those whose birthdays we were celebrating. She also emphasized the Girl Scout Cookie Push, and introduced our special guest star, Miss Bette Davis. Miss Davis, the high-light of the show,did a scene from two of her pictures.All of you who saw her in "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane" could not forget that incomparable performance.

Last - and most assuredly, not least, Mr. Walter Craig, faced his applauding audience. Through the versatility and showmanship of this superb national entertainer we were able to meet all the aforementioned celebrities. Walter is known and billed as "The Man With A Thousand Voices", and if any of you ever have the opportunity to see him perform, it is, believe me, a rare treat.

The Crescendos, who were scheduled to appear also,had to cancel due to the illness of one of their members. We missed them, and hope David is feeling better. For the fifty one people who attended the potluck pool party given by the Valley Parish, July 27, it was a very enjoyable evening.

Our special thanks to Mr. Tony DuBois and his Aunt Zelda for the use of their lovely home.

To Mr. Walter Craig for a splendid performance,our warmest affection and a special "Magnifique!"

To you - all of you - who prepared that marvelous feast - thank you for helping to make it a complete evening.

For those of you who were unable to attend, we missed you, and hope to see you soon at one of our gatherings.

We sincerely hope that each of those attending enjoyed the evening as much as we enjoyed having them join with us in Christian Fellowship.

The Valley Parish

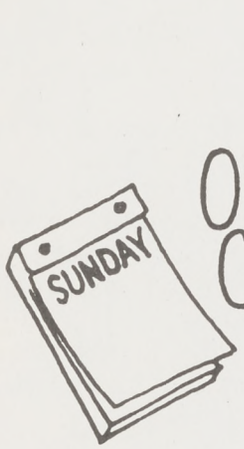
LONG BEACH PARISH

A White Elephant Party was held at the Plush International Towers. It included a box lunch. Fun was had by all. Items that seemed to be of particular interest were a white pair of bikinis, a large glass ash tray and a bottle of wine.

Come and join us at the Beach Party which will be coming up the latter part of August.

Meeting on August 4th.
Steve & Marshall's
353 Grand Avenue,
Long Beach Call 439-5884
Discussion topic: Drugs

MONDAY, AUGUST 2ND	OPEN	
TUESDAY, AUGUST 3RD	8:00 PM	LAVENDER LADIES REHEARSAL
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4TH	7:30 PM	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE Rev. Ploen's Office
	8:00 PM	WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING Main Sanctuary
	8:00 PM	LONG BEACH PARISH DISCUSSION Topic: Drugs, at Steve & Marshalls 353 Grand Ave., Long Beach 439-5884 for information
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5TH	7:00 PM	MOTORCYCLE CLUB OF CALIFORNIA The Sommers Room
	7:00 PM	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
	7:30 PM	C.I.C. MEETING Seminary Room
	8:30 PM	ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER MEETING Church Social Hall
FRIDAY, AUGUST 6TH	7:30 PM	KOOL-AIDS MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 7TH	10:00 AM	CHURCH CLEANING
	12:00 PM	HOLLYWOOD PARISH BEACH PARTY Venice Beach, Westwinds Bar
	1:00 PM	PUBLICATIONS RUMMAGE SALE Parking Lot BARGAINS, BARGAINS, BARGAINS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 8TH	9:00 AM	COMMUNION SERVICE
	9:30 AM	COMMUNICANTS CLASS Sommers Room
	9:30 AM	THE ACADEMY
	9:30 AM	COFFEE SOCIAL HOUR
	9:30 AM	BIBLE CLASS, MEN & WOMEN
	10:30 AM	SINGSPIRATION
	10:30 AM	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
	10:45 AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL Seminary Class Room Teacher: Steve Jordan
	11:00 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
	7:30 PM	EVENING SERVICE



Our Church Calendar

Reprint from the Prodigal, San Diego Newsletter.

GUILTY!

A very common problem in the gay community is that of feeling guilty. Guilty of being gay. Many of the community feel almost obsessed with this problem -- to the point of taking on self-destructive acts in order to prove that they are in fact guilty, as they assume they are. What are self-destructive acts? A very common case is that of feeling paranoid about "who knows" and in the process almost actually telling them "I am." For some, park cruising and tea-room trade is self-destructive -- they are going out with the hopes of getting caught. Then, when busted, they can now know for themselves that they are in fact guilty. Again they feel guilty that they are gay.

Some acts are not actually, apparently, self-destructive. In some instances, there is the problem of "passiveness" in which the other person must always make the first move. In those cases, the person feels that if he made the first move (or was aggressive in any manner), then he is simply allowing the other person to be the "guilty party." He can always retort, "I didn't do anything," or "Christ, was I drunk last night," or "The devil made me do it." Is that self-destructive? Apparently not. But in reality there is the growing fear that in fact you may be "turning gay." Or the constant frustration of not being able to pursue a person, and so you loose, night after night.

And then there are those who probably feel they are guilty of being gay, but have suppressed the feeling so far that it now takes on sub-conscious proportions. Openly they admit they're gay. Even inside in their head they say they're gay. But somewhere deep inside they know they're guilty. They then set out on a course of events that will ultimately fail time after time. Any project, whenever it seems to be moderately successful, will be detoured into failure if at all possible. The ultimate failure they can then blame on being gay.

Are you gay? If so, stand up and be proud of it! Being gay is not something one is guilty of. Being gay is the way God made you -- accept it, you can't change it. Being gay does not make you guilty of anything at all -- it may make you different from someone's norm, but NOT GUILTY! Remember, you are a child of God, destined to live on this earth for some time, and desirous of living the good life (not the unhappy, frustrated guilty life). So make up your mind now -- if you feel guilty for being gay, ask yourself what are you actually guilty of. Once you realize that you're not guilty, life becomes a lot sweeter. Take that from one who has been there -- me!

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

PRAYER IS LIKE . . .

THE PORTER – to watch the door of our lips.

THE GUARD – to keep the fort of our hearts.

THE HILT OF THE SWORD – to defend our hands.

A MASTER WORKMAN – who accomplishes things.

A BAROMETER – to show our spiritual condition.

PAT ROCCO

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SPREE THEATRE PLAYERS

PRESENTS

Mort Crowley's

The BOYS IN THE BAND

Produced by PAT ROCCO
Directed by GERALD STRICKLAND

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

PREVIEWS BEGIN AUGUST 6th

AT REDUCED RATES

OPENS AUGUST 16TH

IVAR

THEATRE

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NEAR SELMA

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